

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03895 110824Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 HA-05 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /081 W

-----083685 110842Z /10

O 110740Z JUL 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1695

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3895

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: ANOTHER DEATH IN DETENTION

1. ACCORDING TO JULY 11 MORNING RADIO AND PRESS, AN UNIDENTIFIED DETAINEE HAS FALLEN TO HIS DEATH FROM THE FIFTH OR SIXTH FLOOR OF THE PORT ELIZABETH SECURITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS. THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, GENERAL MIKE GELDENHUYS SAID THE YOUNG BLACK DETAINEE COMMITTED SUICIDE ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 10; THE DIVISIONAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OFFICER FOR THE EASTERN CAPE, COLONEL MARCUS VAN DER MERWE, SAID HE IS INVESTIGATING THE CASE. THE PORT ELIZABETH SECURITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED IN THE SANLAM BUILDING, THE SAME BUILDING IN WHICH STEVE BIKO RECEIVED HIS FATAL INJURIES.

2. PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY SPOKESMAN ON JUSTICE MATTERS, HELEN SUZMAN IS REPORTEDLY "EXTREMELY DISTRESSED" OVER THE DEATH AND SAID THAT THE TWO FORMER JURISTS APPOINTED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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KRUGER TO LOOK AFTER THE WELFARE OF DETAINEES WERE "OBVIOUSLY INEFFECTUAL." SUZMAN ALSO REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR THE REPEAL OF LEGISLATION WHICH PERMITS DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL.

3. PRESS REPORTS CLAIM THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS OF SECURITY DETAINEES NOW STANDS AT 44 SINCE

1963. (EMBASSY HAS COUNTED 23 SECURITY DETAINEE DEATHS
SINCE MARCH, 1976.)
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, DEATHS, POLICE POWERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03895
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780283-0175
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780774/aaaackfj.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ccefce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2051004
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANOTHER DEATH IN DETENTION
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, PORS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ccefce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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